

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024, 10:00am



Cover art by Vicki Shuck, EsperanzaArts



GREENVILLE  
COMMUNITY  
CHURCH

Welcome to Greenville Community Church! We're glad you've joined us. We are an inclusive family of faith that celebrates diversity, curiosity, service and hospitality.

Today is the fourth Sunday after Easter. The liturgical color for today is white, symbolizing the brightness of Christ and the dawn of a new day.

**Men's and women's restrooms** are located downstairs. They can be accessed by the stairs in the narthex (the entryway in the back of the church).

**An all-gender accessible restroom** is located in the educational/administrative wing near Hessler Hall. Those who are not comfortable with stairs may enter this part of the building through the office entrance on the front driveway facing Ardsley Rd.

**If you are visiting with us, we extend a special greeting to you.** Please fill out the visitor form in the narthex so we can get to know you. Join us for coffee after worship in Hessler Hall.

Please note our services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel, which can be accessed through our website homepage, [www.greenvillechurch.org](http://www.greenvillechurch.org). Each service is archived, so you can watch them at your leisure.



Thank you for your gifts and offerings. Every gift, no matter how large or small, makes a difference in our ability to share God's love with those around us. Offering envelopes are available in the pew racks; you may also donate electronically through the QR code on the left. NOTE: You may join our church Wifi network "Sanctuary" with the password: 4churchonly

## ORDER OF SERVICE

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*As the prelude begins, we invite you to enter a time of quiet reflection to prepare for worship. Please silence all electronic devices.*

PRELUDE      Prelude in B flat minor      Bach

### WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

When we walk along the roads of life:

**Christ is there among us.**

When our route leads to the bustling city:

**Christ is there among us.**

When we venture down a country path:

**Christ is there among us.**

Alone or with the crowds, with family, friend or stranger:

**Christ is there among us. Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN 324      Open My Eyes That I May See      *Hymns, Psalms, Spiritual Songs*

### \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God,**

**we confess that even as we celebrate the resurrection,**

**we neglect your commandment to love one another.**

**We pass by those in need, fail to care for your creation,**

**and distract ourselves with selfish pursuits.**

**Forgive us for our shortcomings.**

**Renew our hearts and minds, and make us more like Christ—**

**more compassionate, more forgiving, more loving, more eager to serve.**

**In the name of the Risen Lord, we pray. Amen.**

*(Silent confession and prayer.)*

PETITION #574      “Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us”      *Hymns, Psalms, Spiritual Songs*

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news...

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

\*RESPONSE: HYMN #229 "From All That Dwell Below the Skies," v. 1

*Hymns, Psalms, Spiritual Songs*

**From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land and tongue.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**You are God's precious child. God loves you!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:11

God, we thank you for your Word.

**The story of your love**

ANTHEM

"On Eagles Wings"

Michael Joncas

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord

Who abide in His shadow for life

Say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings

Bear you on the breath of dawn

Make you to shine like the sun

And hold you in the palm of His hand

The snare of the fowler will never capture you

And famine will bring you no fear

Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings

Bear you on the breath of dawn

Make you to shine like the sun

And hold you in the palm of His hand

You need not fear the terror of the night

Nor the arrow that flies by day

Though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings  
Bear you on the breath of dawn  
Make you to shine like the sun  
And hold you in the palm of His hand

For to His angels He's given a command  
To guard you in all of your ways  
Upon their hands they will bear you up  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings  
Bear you on the breath of dawn  
Make you to shine like the sun  
And hold you in the palm of His hand

And hold you, hold you in the palm of His hand

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:26-45

For the Word of God in Scripture,  
For the Word of God among us,  
For the Word of God within us,  
**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“The Power of Encouragement”

Rev. Elizabeth Testa

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

OFFERING:

“Ave Maria”

F. Schubert

Ave Maria  
Gratia plena  
Maria, gratia plena  
Maria, gratia plena  
Ave, ave dominus  
Dominus tecum

Benedicta tu in mulieribus  
Et benedictus

Et benedictus fructus ventris  
Ventris tuae, Jesus  
Ave Maria

Ave Maria  
Mater Dei  
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus  
Ora pro nobis, Ora, ora pro nobis peccatoribus

Nunc et in hora mortis  
Et in hora mortis nostrae  
Et in hora mortis nostrae  
Et in hora mortis nostrae  
Ave Maria

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God, all creatures here below,  
Praise God above, you heavenly host  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Gracious God, giver of all good things, accept these gifts and with them  
our lives, to be used in your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

Spirit, Working in Creation

(See Insert)

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL**

RESPONSE #106 **"Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"** v. 1 *Hymns, Psalms, Spiritual Songs*  
**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name.  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name.**

*Please be seated until the conclusion of the postlude.  
Use this time for quiet contemplation.*

**POSTLUDE**

"Abschied (Farewell)"

by Robert Schumann

*Following worship, join us for coffee hour downstairs in Hessler Hall.  
We are grateful to Julie Tang and Yasmin Thomas for preparing refreshments today.*

### **TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Rev. Elizabeth Testa  
David Shenton, *piano & organ*  
Erin Sheilds, *tenor*  
William Dibba and Rich Laudenbach, *ushers*

### **IN OUR PRAYERS**

**Pastor Sam & Jen** as he recovers from double knee replacement surgery, **Nicola Powell**, daughter of Sonia Powell, recovering from a heart attack; **George McKinnis** on the loss of his wife, Marlene; **a mother and her son** as he faces various challenges; **Judy Schmidt**, dealing with health challenges; **Keith Clonan**, godson of Ellen Ryan, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer; grieving the loss of her cousin; **Rochford**, friend of Sharon; **Kevin Backles**, friend of Yasmin Thomas, diagnosed with stage 4 cancer; **Denise Colon**, niece of Rosa Morett, fighting cancer; **Steven Sathuluri**, nephew of Mary Perikala; **Debbie**, sister of Teresa Krajco, battling stage 4 cancer; **Beth Gitau**; **Lee Lajoi**; **Bruce Purse**; **Lily Woo**, recovering from a kidney transplant; **Karen Quinn**; **Fred Brandi**.

*Prayer is an important part of this faith community. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please contact Pastor Sam. Names can be added to the public prayer list or be held in confidence. Names will be listed in the bulletin for two months, unless requested otherwise.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**There will be a brief fellowship meeting** from 11 – 11:30 during coffee hour today.

**Potluck Supper and Paint Night**—*Fri., Apr. 26, 6:00pm, Hessler Hall.* Gather for a meal and paint a beautiful scene, led by a professional artist. \$25/person (cash preferred); ages 5 and up welcome. Art materials provided. BYOB. RSVP by Apr. 19 to: [www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094BA5AD2FA0FDC34-48582995-potluck#](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094BA5AD2FA0FDC34-48582995-potluck#/)/. Questions? Contact Dyan Atkins ([dyan2@optonline.net](mailto:dyan2@optonline.net)) or Rich Laudenbach ([richie51@aol.com](mailto:richie51@aol.com)).

**Volunteer for Mt. Vernon Soup Kitchen**— On **Sunday May 5th**, the teens will have a short meeting after worship, following by baking **cookies** to give to the **Mt Vernon Soup Kitchen**. **Mon., May 6.** Prepare and/or help serve meals with our friends at First Reformed Church of Mt. Vernon. Food may be dropped off at the church following worship on May 5, or by 2:00pm on May 6. We will meet at the church in Mt. Vernon at 3:30pm: 135 S. 6th Ave., Mt. Vernon. To RSVP, visit [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com), click on the magnifying glass icon, and search for the signup by entering [sclover@greenvillechurch.org](mailto:sclover@greenvillechurch.org). You should see “Mount Vernon Soup Kitchen.” Click to reserve your spot!

**Lecture: Welcoming and Supporting New Refugees in Our Community**—*Mon., May 13, 2:00pm*, Church of St. James the Less, 10 Church La., Scarsdale. The Scarsdale-Hartsdale Women’s Interfaith Council are hosting this lecture with Kathie O’Callaghn of the nonprofit Hearts & Homes for Refugees. All welcome; light refreshments follow. For info, contact Ruth Boser ([ruthboser@gmail.com](mailto:ruthboser@gmail.com); 914-671-0666) or Alison Rose ([aprilalisonrose@gmail.com](mailto:aprilalisonrose@gmail.com); 914-723-7617).

**Calling all Golfers or Golfer Wannabes** David Shenton, Andrew Onslow, and Richard Pink are organizing a GCC Fellowship Golf Outing. For planning and reservation purposes we need to know how many have an interest. This outing will be open to GCC members and friends, your friends, and to parents of the Greenville Church Nursery School. We plan to hold the outing at Maple Moor Golf Course, 1128 North Street, White Plains on Monday June 3<sup>rd</sup>. It will be a morning outing followed by a barbeque luncheon on the patio (weather permitting). The fees for golf, carts, and lunch is expected to be a very reasonable \$100 per person. If interested, please contact one of us by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

David....email: [das\\_shenton@yahoo.com](mailto:das_shenton@yahoo.com); text: 917-647-7288

Andrew...email: [andrew.c.onslow@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.c.onslow@gmail.com); text: 929-429-0156

Richard...email: [richardpink@verizon.net](mailto:richardpink@verizon.net); text : 917-251-7465



**Clothing Donation Shed.** We accept clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, towels, sheets, pillowcases, curtains and stuffed animals for distribution to communities in need. If you would like to donate these items, please place items in good condition in bags, and drop them in the shed in the back parking lot. All donations are tax deductible.

**We are accepting donations for the food pantry.** If you have spare canned goods or boxes of cereal, consider donating them to our partner, the Ecumenical Emergency Food Pantry of White Plains. A basket is in the Narthex; food will be transported from GCC regularly.

**Facebook and Instagram Pages.** Have you checked out our Facebook and Instagram pages? We regularly post photos, thoughts, and information about upcoming events. Please take a look and “like” and “follow” us!



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Rev. Samuel T. Clover, *Senior Minister*  
David A. Shenton, *Director of Music*  
Liz Follen, *Church Administrator*  
Kristen O'Leary, *Faith Formation Coordinator*  
Irma Flores-Medina, *Buildings and Grounds Overseer*

**Consistory**

*Deacons*

Dyan Atkins – Chair, Fellowship Committee  
Gary Beane – Chair, Education Committee  
Stephen Morton  
Yasmin Thomas

*Elders*

Karie Brown – Chair, Mission Committee  
Richard Laudenschach – Vice President, Acting Clerk  
Richard Pink  
Aad Zeeuw – Chair, Facilities Committee  
Dotti Han, Treasurer (ex-officio)